

Amendments to the Claims

The current listing of the claims replaces all previous amendments and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink ~~drops~~ downwardly onto ~~front and back surfaces of~~ a recording sheet;

a recording sheet source, disposed at a level lower than a level of the inkjet recording head, configured to accommodate a stack of recording sheets;

a sheet feeding mechanism configured and adapted for feeding at least to pick up one of the recording sheets from the recording sheet source and to reverse an orientation of the picked up recording sheet in order to feed the recording sheet to the inkjet recording head for printing on a first side of the recording sheet, configured to feed a portion of a the recording sheet having the first side printed thereon by the inkjet recording head ; to a location outside of the housing along a substantially horizontal straight path to expedite drying of the ink, drops after the first side of the sheet has been printed, and for printing on and configured to reverse an orientation of the recording sheet, having the first side which has been printed thereon, by conveying the recording sheet through a location which is below the recording head and then back to the recording head so that the second side of the recording sheet is printed thereon by the inkjet recording head; and

a controller configured to control the sheet feeding mechanism to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for a predetermined time period to allow the ink ~~drops~~ printed on the first side of the sheet to dry before printing on the second side of the sheet.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink ~~drops~~ downwardly onto ~~front and back~~
~~surfaces of~~ a recording sheet;

a recording sheet source, disposed at a level lower than a level of the inkjet recording
head, configured to accommodate a stack of recording sheets;

a first sheet ~~ejection path configured and adapted for transporting~~ to transport sheets
printed by said ink jet recording head along a straight and horizontal path so that at least a
portion of the sheets extend outside of the housing;

a second sheet ~~ejection path, comprising path including~~ a switchback mechanism
configured ~~and adapted for transporting~~ to reverse an orientation of the at least a portion of a
recording sheet printed on the a first surface to a location outside the housing to expedite
drying of the print on the first surface and for returning the recording sheet printed on the first
surface into the housing for printing by transporting the recording sheet through a location
which is below the inkjet recording head and then back to the inkjet recording head so that a
second side of the recording sheet is printed thereon by the inkjet recording head on the
~~recording sheet second surface;~~ and

a controller configured to control a transportation of the recording sheet through the
first and second sheet paths ~~the switchback mechanism~~ to maintain the recording sheet at the
location outside of the housing for a predetermined time period to allow ink ~~drops~~ printed on
the recording sheet first surface to dry before returning the recording sheet printed on the first
surface back into the housing and through the second sheet path in order for the inkjet
recording head to print ~~for printing~~ on the second surface of the recording sheet second
surface.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (New): An inkjet printing apparatus, comprising:

a tray configured to hold recording sheets;

an inkjet head which emits ink downwardly;

a pickup roller which removes a sheet from the tray;

a roller which reverses an orientation of the sheet conveyed by the pickup roller and transports the sheet towards the inkjet head which emits ink downwardly onto the sheet;

a substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path which receives the sheet having wet ink thereon through which the paper is conveyed such that the sheet having the wet ink remains substantially straight;

ejection rollers which are part of the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path which convey at least a portion of the sheet to an outside of the inkjet printing apparatus; and

a reversing path which receives the sheet having one side printed thereon by the inkjet head and reverses the orientation of the sheet and conveys the sheet back towards the inkjet head, at least a portion of the reversing path being disposed away from the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path in a vertical direction towards the tray.

6. (New): An apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a sensor disposed between the inkjet head and the ejection rollers configured to sense the sheet.

7. (New): An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a controller, operationally connected to the sensor, configured to hold at the least the portion of the sheet having wet ink outside of the inkjet printing apparatus.

8. (New): An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

said at least a portion of the reversing path which is disposed away from the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path in a vertical direction towards the tray is lower than the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path.

9. (New): An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

the controller is configured to hold the at least the portion of the sheet having wet ink outside of the inkjet printing apparatus for different durations.

10. (New): An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the controller is configured to hold the at least the portion of the sheet having wet ink outside of the inkjet printing apparatus for different durations, depending on an amount of ink on the sheet.

11. (New): An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

the controller is a means for controlling the holding at the least the portion of the sheet having wet ink outside of the inkjet printing apparatus.

12. (New): An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

the controller is a means for controlling the holding at the least the portion of the sheet having wet ink outside of the inkjet printing apparatus by controlling a rotation of the ejection rollers.

13. (New): A method of double sided printing using a printing apparatus, comprising:

removing a sheet from a tray;

reversing an orientation of the sheet;

conveying the sheet under an inkjet head;

emitting ink from the inkjet head downwardly onto a first side of the sheet;

transporting the sheet along a substantially straight and substantially horizontal path so that at least a portion of the sheet extends outside of the printing apparatus such that the sheet having the wet ink remains substantially straight;

holding at least the portion of the sheet outside of the printing apparatus for a period of time; and

transporting the sheet back into the printing apparatus through a reversing path which extends away from the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path in a vertical direction towards the tray in order to reverse an orientation of the sheet and convey the sheet back under the inkjet head; and

emitting ink from the inkjet head downwardly onto a second side of the sheet.

14. (New): A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

ejecting the sheet out of the printing apparatus, after emitting ink onto the second side of the sheet.

15. (New): A method according to claim 14, wherein:

the ejecting comprises ejecting the sheet out of the printing apparatus through the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path.

16. A method according to claim 13, wherein the holding at least the portion of the sheet outside of the printing apparatus for a period of time comprises:

holding at least the portion of the sheet outside of the printing apparatus for a variable time period.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the holding at least the portion of the sheet outside of the printing apparatus for a period of time comprises:

holding at least the portion of the sheet outside of the printing apparatus for a variable time period which is set depending on an amount of ink ejected from the inkjet head.

18. (New): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the controller is configured to control the sheet feeding mechanism to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for the predetermined time period which varies.

19. (New): An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein:

the controller is configured to control the sheet feeding mechanism to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for the predetermined time period which varies depending on an amount of ink on the recording sheet.

20. (New): An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein:

the controller is configured to control the transportation to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for the predetermined time period which varies.

21. (New): An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein:

the controller is configured to control the transportation to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for the predetermined time period which varies depending on an amount of ink on the recording sheet.